

11. THE SCAUP DUCK (*AYTHYA MARILA*) IN MADHYA PRADESH

The Scaup Duck (*Aythya marila*) is a rare winter visitor to the Indian sub-continent, though it has been sporadically recorded from Kashmir, Kulu, Punjab, Delhi, Nepal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Bangladesh, Assam, Manipur and Maharashtra (HANDBOOK p. 188). Recently during our ringing programme at Karera Bustard Sanctuary, Shiv-

puri district, Madhya Pradesh, one of us (VN) had the opportunity of handling a Scaup Duck caught by our trappers along with ducks of different species. This particular bird was identified as an adult male.

Wing — 221 mm; Bill — 43 mm; Tarsus — 37 mm; Tail — 55 mm; Wt. — 1080 g. All the primaries had freshly moulted.

AVIFAUNA PROJECT,
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February 7, 1986.

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12. SIGHTING OF THE BLACKCRESTED BAZA (*AVICEDA LEUPHOTES*) AT BHIMASHANKAR

On the 1st January, 1986, at 1040 hrs., we sighted a blackcrested baza (*Aviceda leuphotes*) at Bhimashankar (District: Pune; 19°4'N, 73°32'E). The bird was soaring over the canopy at Hanuman Tale, occasionally flapping its wings between glides. At that distance we were unable to differentiate between *A. leuphotes leuphotes* and the East Himalayan *A. leuphotes syama*.

If it was *A. l. leuphotes*, then this sighting is a new record for Maharashtra. It is supposed to be resident in Kerala including Wynaad

and the Nilgiri Hills and may be resident in Coorg and the Malnad area of Karnataka, though it has yet to be recorded in the latter area (Ali and Ripley 1978). If it was *A. l. syama*, then it was probably a passage migrant to or from Sri Lanka. It is, however, surprising that an East Himalayan bird should use a western migratory route. As the status and distribution of the two races is as yet unclear (Ali and Ripley 1978), further information would be of much interest.

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March 6, 1986.

ULHAS RANE
RENEE BORGES

REFERENCE

ALI, S. A. & RIPLEY, S. DILLON (1978): Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan. Vol. I. Oxford University Press, Bombay.